

Kieffner for being selected as one of the Cincinnati Enquirer newspaper's Women of the Year.

The Enquirer has done well to bestow this honor on Ms. Kieffner. Among her many causes, she has done much for the St. Elizabeth Medical Center Foundation. She has also devoted herself to promoting breast health awareness and to raising funds for the Fischer Homes Breast Center. If that weren't enough, she is also active with the Redwood Rehabilitation Center, the American Cancer Society's Northern Kentucky chapter, United Ministries, and her church, Gloria Dei Lutheran.

Since The Enquirer's Women of the Year program was started in 1968, over 350 women in Greater Cincinnati and northern Kentucky have been singled out for their efforts to improve the community for everyone.

Ms. Kieffner has certainly deserved this citation. As a Senator and a member of her community, I am proud of her dedication. Her accomplishments serve as an example to all citizens of the Commonwealth.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM A. COOPER

● Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise to extend my congratulations to Mr. William A. Cooper for long standing service as CEO at TCF Financial Corporation, a financial holding company based in Minnesota.

Bill Cooper came to TCF Financial in 1985 with an impressive financial leadership record which included serving as a senior auditor for Touche, Ross and company, a Detroit firm, and as President of Huntington Bank of Ohio.

But based on my personal relationship with Bill, I would say his high school graduating class might have voted him "least likely to become a banker." The banker's stereotype is reserved, cautious, and circumspect. Bill Cooper is bold, innovative, and refreshingly outspoken. Like his hero Ronald Reagan, there is never a bit of doubt as to where Bill Cooper stands.

During his tenure as CEO, Bill Cooper directed an impressive expansion of TCF Financial in Minnesota and elsewhere through his innovative leadership. From 1985 until his retirement in January, he helped to transform TCF Financial from a small banking enterprise into a thriving operation offering industry leading consumer services.

Bill Cooper is a complete citizen. He not only led a thriving business that provided thousands of jobs and financial services to a big proportion of our Minnesota population, Bill used his voice, his philanthropy, and his influence to improve as many sectors of our State as he could get his hands on.

His work on education not only shaped Minnesota public policy, his personal involvement changed the lives of hundreds of disadvantaged students forever. He has always had strong opinions and had the integrity to walk his talk.

Although Mr. Cooper has retired as CEO of TCF, he has not completely given himself up to the ski slopes or the golf courses as he continues to re-

main active in the financial world and in his community.

Minnesota has been fortunate to have a business leader like Mr. Cooper who not only has enriched the economy of Minnesota and elsewhere but has also used his good name, time, and money for the good of the community. Minnesota celebrates its lakes and farms and excellent community assets. One of the secrets of our success is community leaders like Bill Cooper who shoulder the burdens of leadership.

I congratulate Bill Cooper, the staff of TCF, and his family on his great career and leadership in the community.●

CELEBRATING THE 2006 BILL TALLMAN MEMORIAL WOMEN IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Bill Tallman Memorial Women in Science Conference, which is taking place in five communities across South Dakota from March 6th through April 28th. Since 2002, the Women in Science Conference has helped to increase interest in science and technological careers among young women in my State. This year's conference is named in honor of the event's distinguished founder, Bill Tallman, who unexpectedly passed away last October while helping with recovery efforts for victims of the devastating hurricanes that hit the gulf coast region.

The cover of a recent Time magazine features a rather amusing photo of a child wearing a lab coat and oversized safety goggles, accompanied by the question, "Is America Flunking Science?" Though the image is meant to provoke a laugh, its associated question is anything but humorous. By a number of measures, our country is losing the competitive edge in scientific and technological fields that has for decades been a key driver of our economy. At a national level, one of the factors that undoubtedly contributes to this unfortunate trend is a failure to adequately engage young women in scientific pursuits. It is discouraging to think of how many important discoveries were never made because of our failure to cultivate young female researchers.

In my view, the Women in Science Conference in South Dakota is a shining example of what we as a nation need more of to retain and enhance our superiority in science and technology. The conference provides young women in South Dakota with first-hand exposure to women who are leading important scientific work. These distinguished individuals share the rewards and challenges of their work in vivid, concrete terms, and serve as role models for young women who may not have previously considered a career in science.

The Women in Science Conference is a product of a partnership between several forward-thinking entities, including the National Weather Service, and several nonprofit and private-sector sponsors. Without their contributions,

this valuable event would not be possible.

It is a fitting tribute to Bill Tallman that this year's event should be named in his honor. Bill not only recognized the need for an important event like this, he actually made it happen. I know it was one of his proudest achievements, and I congratulate everyone who participates in the Women in Science Conference for helping to carry on his vision. Bill began his career by engaging young minds as a high school math teacher, and then served his country during a 20-year career as a meteorologist with the U.S. Air Force. Next he joined the National Weather Service, and was eventually asked to lead its Aberdeen, SD, office. At a time of national tragedy, few were surprised at Bill's willingness to serve again by leaving home to help those who had suffered through the devastating hurricanes that hit the gulf coast in 2005.

Bill Tallman's presence will be sorely missed by all the people whose lives he touched. It is my distinct pleasure to honor his life and legacy by recognizing the Bill Tallman Memorial Women in Science Conference today in the Senate.●

MRS. PRANKE'S SIXTH GRADE

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize a special group of students. It is not often enough that we have the opportunity to acknowledge heartwarming acts of kindness, but the actions of Mrs. Pranke's sixth grade class in Sheyenne, ND, have touched my hearts and the heart of their neighbors and friends.

Throughout their years together, this special group of students has worked on more than one occasion to serve their community. As third graders, they collected box tops to purchase new games for schoolmates. When they were in the fifth grade, they initiated a fundraiser and donated the proceeds to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Fargo, ND.

As one final project, Mrs. Pranke's sixth graders decided to treat themselves to a class trip to celebrate their years together before moving on to junior high school.

The students began holding fundraisers for their trip. Shortly after all the funds had been raised, they learned that the father of one of their classmates had fallen critically ill. The students quickly realized that they were faced with unique circumstances. After learning of their classmate's situation and the medical costs the family would bear, the children chose to donate the funds to their classmate's family and forgo their class trip.

By choosing to help with their hard-earned money rather than keep it for themselves, these extraordinary students proved that their hearts are deep and their love for one another is real.

Again, I commend Mrs. Pranke's exceptional group of sixth graders. Their

selfless act has reaffirmed that values and kindness have not been lost in a world that so often focuses on the negative. I wish them all the best as they finish their final year together and continued success as they begin a new chapter of their education next year.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1989. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 Rolfe Square in Cranston, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the "Holly A. Charette Post Office".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4152. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 High Street in Clinton, Massachusetts, as the "Raymond J. Salmon Post Office".

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 322. Concurrent resolution expressing the appreciation of Congress for the contributions of the United Service Organizations, Incorporated (the USO), to the morale and welfare of the members of the Armed Forces and their families.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2275. An act to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 11142 of SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59), Mr. Rangel, the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, hereby appoints to the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission the following individuals: Mr. Elliot "Lee" Sander (Director of the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy Management at New York University, and Senior Vice President and Director of Strategic Development at DMJM Harris) of New York City, York and Mr. Craig Lentzsch (CEO of Coach USA and KBUS Holdings) of Dallas, Texas.

At 6:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4745. An act making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loans program, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 322. Concurrent resolution expressing the Sense of Congress regarding the contribution of the USO to the morale and welfare of our servicemen and women of our armed forces and their families; to the Committee on Armed Services.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4152. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 High Street in Clinton, Massachusetts, as the "Raymond J. Salmon Post Office".

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5762. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards of Performance for Stationary Combustion Turbines" ((RIN2060-AM79) (FRL No. 8033-4)) received on February 14, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5763. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil Pollution Prevention; Non-Transportation Related Onshore Facilities" (FRL No. 8033-9) received on February 14, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5764. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 8030-7) received on February 14, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5765. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards of Performance for Electric Utility Steam Generating Units for Which Construction is Commenced After September 18, 1978; Standards of Performance for Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units; and Standards of Performance for Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units" ((RIN2060-AM80) (FRL No. 8033-3)) received on February 14, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5766. A communication from the Chairman and President (Acting), Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, a report of draft legislation relative to providing a five-year reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5767. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs' report on its competitive sourcing efforts for Fiscal Year 2005; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5768. A communication from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Program; Worker Safety and Health Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5769. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Report of the Administration of the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5770. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Add Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine to List of Regions in Which Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Subtype H5N1 is Considered to Exist" (APHIS-2006-0010) received on February 14, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5771. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Add Portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Santa Clara Counties, CA, to the List of Quarantined Areas" (APHIS-2005-0116) received on February 14, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-263. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to increasing efforts to protect our borders; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 149

Whereas, The current war on terrorism began on September 11, 2001, when terrorists unleashed an air assault on America's military and financial power centers, hijacking commercial jets and crashing them into the World Trade Center in New York, and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Thousands of innocent people were murdered, and the nation suffered billions of dollars in damages from this terrorist attack; and

Whereas, In response to these attacks, in order to better coordinate security and emergency response efforts, the federal government created a federal Homeland Security Department and increased funding for antiterrorism efforts throughout the nation. Border security is an essential component of creating a safe and secure homeland and the federal Homeland Security Department is responsible for protecting our borders. As a border state that includes some of the busiest points of entry in the country, Michigan is acutely aware of the importance of this issue; and

Whereas, In order to increase our safety and security, Congress should pass legislation that provides increased manpower and more sophisticated technology at the national borders. United States border security should be able to apprehend illegal immigrants and potential terrorists before they enter the country and cause mayhem; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the